



## Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

0038515

94-ERB-142

JUN 22 1994

Mr. Jerry Meninick, Chairman  
Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Indian Nation  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, Washington 98948

Dear Mr. Meninick:

### RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE HANFORD PROTOTYPE BARRIER

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Richland Operations Office (RL), sincerely appreciates the efforts of the Yakama Indian Nation (YIN) in achieving consensus with RL on June 3, 1994, to complete construction of the prototype Hanford barrier over the 216-B-57 crib located in the 200 East Area. RL believes that the interests and concerns of the YIN regarding the construction project were fully discussed and considered at the meeting. As agreed upon, RL will direct the Westinghouse Hanford Company to provide a copy of the testing plans to the YIN for review and comment. RL welcomes the technical expertise offered by the YIN.

RL affirms that the 216-B-57 prototype barrier is being constructed as a key alternative to demonstrate the ability to isolate waste and limit its movement to the accessible surface and subsurface environment. RL also reaffirms that the 216-B-57 barrier is a treatability test, and it is not considered a permanent facility. If, in the future, consideration is given to making the 216-B-57 barrier permanent, RL will undertake necessary actions to keep the YIN apprised of all applicable decisions in accordance with the DOE Indian Nation Policy and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). RL will provide the YIN with adequate review time for the Proposed Plan so that the YIN may consider and address their interests and concerns. RL suggests that the YIN also work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hanford Project Office, as it is EPA that will determine (by a CERCLA Record of Decision) if the barrier will be permanent.

Once again, RL would like to express its appreciation to the YIN for working with RL and we look forward to building on this positive relationship as we fulfill our commitment for government-to-government consultation. If you have any questions, please contact either Mr. Paul Pak at (509) 376-4798, or Mr. Kevin Clarke at (509) 376-6332.

Sincerely,

*John D. Wagonec*  
John D. Wagonec  
Manager

END:PMP

cc: J. Brodeur, YIN R. Jim, YIN  
R. Cook, YIN D. Sherwood, EPA  
Administrative Record (200-BP-1 Operable Unit)  
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